

24 January 1979

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

STATINTL

FROM : [REDACTED]  
VIA : Chief, Operations Branch, CRG  
SUBJECT: Meeting with NARS Representatives on  
Protecting OSS Records

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1. The meeting was held for two hours on 22 January 1979 at NARS. The undersigned and [REDACTED] of the OSS Review Group met with the following representatives of NARS: Milton O. Gustafson, Chief of the Diplomatic Records Branch, Thomas Hohmann, Chief of the Declassification Branch at NARS under Alan Thompson; Chester Dunham, Section Chief under Hohmann; Richard von Doenhoff, Section Chief under Hohmann; Ms. Pat Dowling, Archival Technician under Gustafson. Alan Thompson was out sick. Purpose of the meeting was to discuss how to protect certain references to OSS personnel in State Department records accessioned to NARS which cover the period 1940-1945. Involved are certain indicies in 3x5 form, some in purport book form, and some files. What is to be protected are a relatively few names of OSS and SSU personnel who served under non-official cover. It is necessary to protect them when their name appears on a record together with data identifying them as OSS or SSU. Approximately 218 entries on cards or purport sheets need protecting.

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2. There was no question of NARS willingness to protect the names and even to do it in a way that would best conceal the CIA hand. The cards and purport sheets will be withdrawn and dummy cards and sheets put in their place. The insert will contain the name, or place if it is a source card, date of the document, the project number which leads to the original, and a stamp stating the original is withheld at the request of "another U.S. Government agency", unnamed. Some indicies are based on names of personnel, some are based on places (locations of overseas posts) and the name appears in the text of the entry. The latter category are called "source cards". Hohmann's shop will make up the new cards and sheets, and [REDACTED] will help Ms. Dowling put them into their proper place in the files. The original cards and purport sheets will be stapled to their parent document and kept in a classified file. The referenced project file and this can be a new project used solely for these documents or could be included as part of a project used regularly for this general purpose, will contain only a few innocuous pieces of paper which could safely be shown to a requester who asks to see it.

3. Most of our time was spent discussing on what grounds we would withhold the card. The choices are B1 or B3. They would work as follows:

a. B1 means withholding under "National Security" grounds. In this case, any request to see the withheld document would be forwarded to CIA for an answer. The same would be true for any appeal to a negative answer to the original request. This would mean that the CIA would be immediately identified as the agency which withheld the document. In addition, the Director would have to certify that these documents were exempted from automatic declassification on grounds of "National Security."

b. B3 means information which is withheld by statute. In this case it would be based on the 1947 and 1949 Acts establishing the CIA and giving the Director authority to protect organizational data including names of personnel. In this case any request for a withheld document would be answered by NARS and they would also handle any appeal. Gustafson stated that although consultation with the interested agency is not required, NARS would alert us to any request to see a document withheld at our request and coordinate their reply with our desires. This is not a requirement and NARS could act without informing us (how much harm would it do in this case) and in some cases they may have different ground rules than we do. For instance, State wants personnel information held over 75 years but NARS for only 30 years so they could release such information even though State does not want it that way. If a person should go beyond the appeal to litigation to get the card, seems unlikely, then CIA would be necessarily brought into the picture.

4. Hohmann's office will start making up the insert cards which will replace the cards being removed. Alan Thompson will be briefed on the conversation along with a suggestion that he write a letter to [REDACTED] Chief of CRG, offering the above alternatives of B1 or B3. I told the group that I thought we would lean toward B3 but that I would brief [REDACTED] and possibly he would contact Alan Thompson on the matter before letters are exchanged.

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## IMS REVIEW OF OSS RECORDS

### A. Background

1. The National Archives and Records Service (NARS) has appraised about half of the 6500 cubic feet of OSS records as being of permanent historical value and has stated that they would like CIA to transfer those permanent records to them so that they may make the records available for public research. In keeping with NARS request, the Agency is now preparing the records for transfer. The preparation involves two separate reviews of the records.

2. The first review involves considering each classified document in the collection for possible declassification. It is being carried out by a team of retired Agency officers under the direction of the DDA/ISAS Classification Review Group. That team is:

a. Declassifying OSS records no longer requiring protection.

b. Tabbing those records which though declassified may not be released by NARS to the public without coordinating that release with other U.S. Government or foreign government agencies.

c. Certifying the necessity for continued classification of those records (largely concerning intelligence sources and methods) which may not be released to the public.

d. Removing those documents which continue to be classified from the collection for retention by CIA.

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e. Substituting for the removed classified documents

a withdrawal notice (Attachment A). The notice will lead an authorized researcher to additional information on his subject and will facilitate a reconstitution of the files should the withdrawn documents be declassified and turned over to NARS.

3. The second review is largely non-substantive and is being conducted for internal DO purposes and to refurbish the records prior to turnover. This second review is being carried out by the DO Information Management Staff. Procedures for the conduct of the IMS review are set forth below.

B. Conducting the IMS Review of OSS Records

IMS reviewers will proceed as follows:

1. Obtain the boxes of records to be reviewed from the

STATINTL OSS scheduling officer [REDACTED]

2. Review the contents of each box looking for materials described below and deal with them as prescribed.

a. Withdrawal Notices - Leave in place  
(Attachment A)

b. Pink Routing and Record Sheets Form 610 (Attachment B)

(1) Remove from records which are to be shipped to NARS.

(2) Leave on records being extracted with for retention by the Agency.

c. Tabs on documents requiring coordination with other U.S. agencies or foreign governments before being released to the public (Attachment C)

Leave in place. When transferring records from Records Center boxes to Archives boxes and records under one tab must be separated into two or more Archives

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